

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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History of the 13th Guards Mechanized Division

- Before the beginning of World War II, the 13th Guards Mechanized Division was 25X1 stationed in the Far East. At the time, it was a rifle brigade, but not know the number. In 1941, when the battles with the advancing Germany Army were at their peak, the brigade was moved from the Far East to the interior of the USSR, to the town of Novo-Ukrainka, Kirovograd Oblast, Ukrainian SSR. There the brigade was regrouped and named the 87th Rifle Division. At the end of 1941, the 87th Division, under the command of Maj. General Rodimzev, was sent to Stalingrad. The division participated in the battle of Stalingrad; forced the following rivers: Dnepr, Dnestr, and Vistula; fought its way through Poland; participated in the battle for Prague; and at the end of the war was in Austria. During the war, many of its soldiers and officers were decorated. The divisions chief mode of transportation throughout the war was horses. After the war, in 1945, the division was redesignated the 13th Guards Mechanized Division, and all horses were replaced by mechanized transport.
- At present, the 13th Guards Mechanized Division consists of the following units: 44th Guards Mechanized Regiment, 45th Guards Mechanized Regiment, 46th Guards Mechanized Regiment, 105th Heavy Tank Self-Propelled Regiment, 15th Tank Regiment, mortar regiment, antiaircraft regiment, howitzer regiment, rocket launcher battalion, engineer battalion, reconnaissance battalion, automobile battalion, and a medical battalion.
- The estimated strength of the 13th Guards Mechanized Division is 13,000 men and 1,500 vehicles. The transport is sufficient to move the entire division. Most of the vehicles are of foreign make, i.e., Ford, Chevrolet, Studebaker. The TO/E of the division is filled 100 percent and the division is maintained in constant readiness.

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4. Since 1949, the commanding general of the division has been Maj. General Bobruk. The divisional headquarters is located in Mödling, Austria. The summer camp of the division is located in Allentsteig, Austria.

History of the 46th Guards Mechanized Regiment

5. In 1941, the 42nd Rifle Regiment was activated in Penza. It was attached to the 87th Rifle Division and participated as a part of the division in all the battles from Stalingrad to Austria. The regimental commander from the time of the formation of the regiment until 1949 was Hero of the Soviet Union, Lt. Col. Polovets. In the same regiment served the now famous Hero of the Soviet Union, Master Sgt. Pavlov. Pavlov became a hero during the German assault on Stalingrad. With a handful of men, Pavlov heroically defended a house in Stalingrad against overwhelming German troops. Now the house bears the name of its defender, Dom Pavlova. After the war, Pavlov went back to Stalingrad, was elected there as representative to the Supreme Soviet, and now works in the city council of Stalingrad. For forcing the Vistula River, the regiment was decorated with the Order of the Red Banner and was named "The Vistula Regiment". In 1945, in Klosterneuburg, Austria, the regiment changed its name from the 42nd Rifle Regiment to the 46th Guards Mechanized Vistula-Red Banner Regiment. In 1949, the regimental commander, Lt. Col. Polovets, went to Nikolayev, USSR, and was succeeded by Col. Vasil Kirilovich Yankovskiy from the 95th Mechanized Division, which was stationed on the Demarcation Line in Austria. Colonel Yankovskiy was regimental commander until February 1952, at which time he was transferred to the town of Bolgrad in the Odessa Military District. He was replaced by Col. Zverev who had come from Bolgrad. Col. Zverev is the present commander of the 46th Guards Mechanized Regiment. Lt. Col. Pugin is the chief of staff of the regiment. Major Lavrinovich is commander of the Regiment Headquarters' Company. The 46th Guards Mechanized Regiment has about 120 vehicles, primarily of foreign make.

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